

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14-20, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38-50, and 58-82 are pending.

Claims 1-4, and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gai, U.S. Patent No. 6,651,101.

Claims 10-12, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gai.

Claims 21-30, and 51-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gai.

Claims 31, and 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gai.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 41-50 are allowed, and that claims 5-7, 13-14, 32-33, and 40 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

It is further noted that grounds for rejection of claim 15 have not been raised. It is believed that claim 15 recites allowable subject matter. Firstly, as noted, grounds for rejection have not been raised against claim 15. Secondly, the subject matter recited in claim 15 is substantially the same as that of claim 7, which is deemed to be allowable. Consequently, it is earnestly believed that claim 15 is allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 4 and 5. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claims 1 and 4, and is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 1, and is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 12 and 13. Claim 10 is therefore believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claims 10 and 12, and is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 10, and is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 31 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 32. Claim 31 is therefore believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of claim 31, and is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 21 - 30, 32, 34, 37, and 51 - 57 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Dependent claims 58 - 82 have been added, and depend from the allowable dependent claims which have been rewritten in independent form.

For convenience, the following claim sets are pending:

- independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 3, 8, and 9;
- independent claim 6 and dependent claims 58 - 61;
- independent claim 7 and dependent claims 62 - 65;
- independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11 and 16 - 20;
- independent claim 14 and dependent claims 66 - 71;
- independent claim 15 and dependent claims 72 - 77;
- independent claim 31 and dependent claims 35, 36, and 38 - 40;
- independent claim 33 and dependent claims 78 - 82; and
- independent claim 41 and dependent claims 42 - 50.

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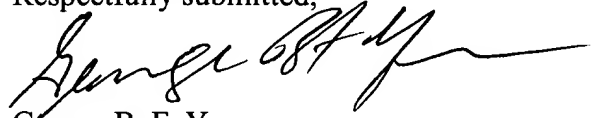
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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